

REMARKS

Currently claims 1-33 are being presented.

The Examiner, in the Official Action, rejected independent claims 1, 20 and 33 under 35 USC § 112 first paragraph as not identifying properly as to what is an unrelated database. By this amendment, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 20 and 33 to specifically set forth that there is provided a database on a computer at a first location and that the searching is conducted on multiple databases unrelated to said database on said computer. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that it is now clear as to what is related and unrelated. In particular, databases which are unrelated to the database on a computer and which are accessed over a communication network are unrelated. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the objections set forth in paragraphs 3 and 4 are no longer applicable.

The Examiner has maintained the rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 7, 10-20, 26 and 33-under 35 102(e) as being anticipated by Huff for reasons set forth therein. Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 20 and 33 to more particularly point out and distinguish the present invention over the prior art. In addition to amending the claims to clarify the relationships of the databases, the independent claims have been amended to set forth that the software program searches unrelated database for relevant information with regard to at least one candidate for the family tree. Independent claims also include reviewing the information according to a set of algorithms by said software program for obtaining a probability assessment that the at least one candidate is related to the at least one identified individual. The independent claims also set forth that the information along with the probability assessment is provided to the user for acceptance or rejection and then the updating of the family tree occurs upon acceptance by the user.

It is respectfully submitted that the Huff reference does not teach the invention as currently set forth. In particular, the Huff reference does not teach or suggest a software program that reviews the information obtained and provides a probability assessment that the candidate is related to the at least one identified individual. The Examiner notes that users are able to evaluate, correct, review and update the database manually and then cites paragraphs [0036], [0092]

and [0126]. Applicant respectfully submit that the Huff reference does not teach the invention as currently set forth. In particular, the Huff reference does not teach or suggest a software program that reviews the information obtained and provides a probability assessment that the candidate is related to the at least one identified individual. The Examiner notes that users are able to evaluate, correct, review and update the database manually and then cites paragraphs [0036], [0092] and [0126]. However, Applicant respectfully submit that the Huff reference does not teach or suggest that a software program evaluated the information and then provides the probability assessment. What is disclosed in Huff is merely the acceptance or rejection of information for updating the database. As the Examiner has acknowledged, this is a manual operation. In Huff, it is the user that evaluates the information. Huff does not provide any probability of assessment as to possible relationship. In the present invention, because the database on the computer goes over a communication network to search unrelated databases, there is unknown the relevancy of the information developed. Thus, it is desirable to be able to evaluate the relevancy of the information. The probability provides an analysis as set forth in the present invention at page 6. The algorithm determines the assigned probability such that the probability increases proportional to the number of data item matches and therefore is dependent upon the amount of information entered. This allows the user to make a more valued assessment of the search results. There is no teaching or suggestion of assigning a probability assessment in the prior art as taught and claimed by Applicant. The Huff reference merely relies on presenting information to the user.

The present invention provides at least two distinguishing features over the Huff reference:

1. Huff reference does not teach or suggest algorithms for obtaining a probability assessment that a candidate is related to the at least one identified individual;
2. Huff does not provide the information along with the probability assessment to the user for acceptance or rejection.

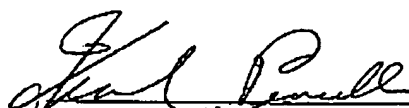
This is clearly not taught or suggested by the Huff reference or any of the other cited references. Thus, for the foregoing reasons the claims in their present form are patentably distinct over the prior art.

In addition, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's assessment of searching various unrelated databases for obtaining information. In the present invention there is a search engine that is provided that goes out independently and tries to obtain information with regard to an identified individual. Paragraphs [0036], [0092] and [0126] merely disclose the ability to link up and accept data from various other databases. There is no teaching or suggestion of the software program going out over a communication network and searching unrelated databases as taught and claimed by Applicant. Thus, the independent claims are patentably distinct for this additional reason.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 4, 6, 8-9 and 21-25 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huff as previously applied, and further in view of Perkowski for the reasons set forth in paragraph 6. Applicant respectfully submit that these claims depend at least ultimately upon independent claims previously discussed and are patentably distinct for the same reasons. The Perkowski reference does not teach or suggest anything that would render the independent claims obvious.

In view of the foregoing it is respectfully submitted that the claims in their present form are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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